Red Tape Reduction Task Force

Progress Report

NOVA SCOTIA

October 2001

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This publication is available on the Internet at
www.gov.ns.ca/cutredtape/Index.html

ISBN: 0-88871-702-4

Published in conventional and electronic form by Communications Nova Scotia.

Design: Paul Chenard
Editorial: Nicole Watkins-Campbell
Cover film: Wade Company Ltd.
Printing: Queen's Printer

PRINTED IN CANADA

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Introduction

The government has committed to make Nova Scotia the most attractive place to do business in Atlantic Canada, and to free business from unnecessary regulatory burdens.

The province's economic growth strategy, Opportunities for Prosperity, also identified "improving business climate" as one of the government's key strategic directions. The strategy, which resulted from than 100 round-table meetings states: "Our competitors, at home and abroad, are working to make their jurisdictions more attractive to do business ... Nova Scotia must not only keep pace, but seek to lead."

On May 11, 2000, Premier John Hamm announced that a Red Tape Reduction Task Force, led by businessman David Grace, would be established. Its role was to make recommendations that would improve the regulatory environment in a way that protects the health and safety of workers, the public and the environment while allowing businesses to prosper and create jobs in Nova Scotia.

In addition to reviewing the information that was already gathered through round-table discussions with Nova Scotia's business community, the Task Force held a series of public meetings, reviewed written submissions and interviewed a diverse range of business, labour and government representatives.

On November 10, 2000, the Task Force issued an interim progress report, putting forth 12 specific recommendations intended to move Nova Scotia away from obstacles imposed by unnecessary red tape, to a system that is efficient, accessible, service-oriented, timely, clear and accountable. The interim report also included the following commitments:

- to take a closer look at a number of issues that had been raised at public meetings and through individual and group submissions; and
- to take a closer look at departments that focus on service delivery and administer regulations that have the greatest impact on business; in particular, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Department of Environment and Labour, and because of concerns expressed by restaurant and beverage industry representatives, the Alcohol and Gaming Authority.

The interim report also highlighted the importance of accountability. The people who came forward felt bureaucracy blocked access to services and made government less accountable to Nova Scotians.

This progress report is our way of being accountable, not only to the people who shared their concerns, but also to the government that assigned our task and the departments that have responded to the Task Force's requests for information and reviews. The report highlights progress made on the recommendations contained in the interim report. It details a framework for keeping the amount of red tape in the Nova Scotia government as low as possible, and it asks for your feedback on the process. It lists regulations and processes that are up for review and potential changes. It offers changes for government for after the dissolution of the Task Force. Finally, it details the Task Force's next steps.

Improving service to Nova Scotians and eliminating barriers to our economic growth requires vigilance at every level of government and across all sectors of our economy. For those of you who have made your thoughts, concerns, and frustrations known to the Task Force, both before and after our interim report, we thank you, and once again ask for your feedback and counsel.

We want to ensure that when the Task Force files its final report in the spring of 2002, we have reflected, to the greatest extent possible, the views of Nova Scotians. We want to ensure we have set the stage for Nova Scotia to be known as one of the safest places to live and work, as well as one of the most business-friendly environments in the world.

Report on Progress

Status on Implementation of the Recommendations

The Red Tape Reduction Task Force's interim report helped emphasize where we need to improve service delivery and how we can create a climate that allows business to flourish, while ensuring protection for workers, the public and the environment.

Most activities related to red tape reduction and improved customer service have been assigned to departments, where regulations are developed and implemented. Departments are working to address specific concerns raised by the task force process, most of which relate to service delivery.

What follows are departmental status reports which highlight areas where improvements are being made as they relate to the Task Force's recommendations. Because many of the actions undertaken by government respond to a number of closely related recommendations, we have grouped several together, particularly those being addressed through new initiatives of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. Recommendations 9 and 11 appear at the end of this section rather than in numerical order because government did not adopt them. Throughout this section of the report are quotes from the interim report. They were recommendations made in the consultation process and we incorporated them to help provide context for readers.

Recommendation #1

Develop a "single-window access" system for the public and for business.

Recommendation #2

Develop e-government as a tool in the single-window access system.

Recommendation # 3

Revive the original concept of Access Nova Scotia — serving customers.

Recommendation #6

Establish one-stop business registry for new businesses.

Action

The government has focussed on a number of new and important initiatives that improve the quality and access to services provided to the public. Progress on each of the above-noted recommendations has been made in several departments, with Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (SNSMR) leading the way as a key department for front-line e-government and e-commerce service delivery.

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations has increasingly capitalized on the popularity of computers with Internet connection as the window that gives Nova Scotians and Nova Scotia businesses immediate access to government information and services. More than 76,000 visitors tour the SNSMR web site, www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr , viewing almost 600,000 pages per month.

The department's goal is to have 80 per cent of its services electronically accessible by 2004. It is also taking the lead in actively exploring e-commerce initiatives on behalf of all government departments. At the same time, it continues to emphasize personal service at 49 locations in 36 communities across the province.

SNSMR has made steady progress in improving service both to business and to individual Nova Scotians through a variety of new service locations and new e-government initiatives: including the Nova Scotia Permits Directory, the Nova Scotia Property Records Database, the Nova Scotia Business Registry and the Registry 2000 Project.

> *"Make it simpler to get everything from a restaurant licence to a driver's licence."*

The Nova Scotia Permits Directory is a resource without rival in the country. The directory gives Nova Scotians access through the Internet to information on licences, permits, registrations and certifications. A complete review and updating of its contents is under way. Work has also begun on including more municipalities in the directory. The efforts of SNSMR to include more municipalities addresses the fact that business and community groups are often dealing with regulations from all three levels of government. Including municipalities in the directory and forging partnerships with the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia and the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency is another critical step toward single-window access.

"People should be able to access this single-window system both at home, at the government office and at home, via the internet. Questions could be answered and transactions completed, with just a few strokes on a computer. "

The Nova Scotia Business Registry (NSBR), an electronic window into government, now makes business registration, licence application and renewal, change of address and business information, and payment all possible online. This award-winning, online service gives businesses the freedom to do business with government 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From any computer with an Internet connection, citizens can register a business; apply for, pay for or renew business licences; view or change business information.

In early June 2001, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations expanded the Nova Scotia Business Registry. SNSMR, the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia and the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency have partnered to offer an easy, fast, and more convenient way to access government services. Using secure database resources, client information is channelled automatically to the appropriate government organization. The NSBR represents a major piece of infrastructure that now needs to be used throughout the Nova Scotia government in order to fully realize the benefits it offers the Nova Scotia business community. Plans are also under way to incorporate a "smart navigation" function into the NSBR.

In the future, the NSBR will automatically alert new businesses to which licences and permits they need for start-up and will send reminders when renewal is pending. As programs are added to the NSBR, their linkages to other programs are taken into consideration so the applicant is made aware of other potential or mandated requirements applicable to their business or industry.

The Nova Scotia Property Records Database now gives Nova Scotians and businesses who become subscribers online access to property records information. Subscribers can also submit any changes in this information and a staff member will inform them once the revisions have been made.

One of the department's most significant ongoing projects is Registry 2000, a seven-year project that will modernize Nova Scotia's 250-year-old land registry system. The current land title system is outdated and inefficient. The new system will be easier to access and less repetitive. It will offer greater certainty of property ownership. Registry 2000 will streamline the conveyancing and mortgaging processes for consumers, eliminating the need for wasteful and repetitive historic searches of title, which cost consumers about $3 million a year.

The new system will be put in place through proclamation of the *Land Registration Act* (2001) and by the implementation of a technology solution which will serve as a platform for the new system. The first location to implement the new system will be announced this fall. The Registry 2000 team plans to have this location fully operational by the following year, with the entire province moving to the new system by the end of 2003.

Land is a $46-billion asset that touches every individual, business and government in Nova Scotia.

"Putting the customer first should be the first commandment."

The original concept of Access Nova Scotia was a navigation role to guide business customers through various business-related government programs and services. This important goal is still at the heart of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. The "one-stop shopping" concept for government programs and services is being realized through this department. For example, the department's call centre has recently expanded the number of programs supported and now provides information on more government programs and services than ever before.

SNSMR has offices in 36 communities across the province. Some specialize in deeds, some in assessment, and some offer an array of services like driver licensing, residential tenancies, vehicle registration and debtor assistance.

During public meetings, business owners and workers in Shelburne and Liverpool told the Task Force they did not have access to Registry of Motor Vehicles services near their communities. Registry of Motor Vehicles services have since been expanded to three new locations (Guysborough, Liverpool and Shelburne) through existing Registry of Deeds offices. SNSMR plans to further expand Registry of Motor Vehicle services into Richmond and Hants.

SNSMR has come a long way from the days of one Registry of Motor Vehicles office located in Halifax. For example, two key services of the Registry of Motor Vehicles are now online: change of mailing address and renewing vehicle permits. In total, more than 600,000 licensed drivers register over 400,000 vehicles every two years. Nova Scotians can also request copies of marriage, birth, and death certificates through the Internet. They can also pay for the transaction online using their credit card. A broad range of provincial government books and publications, including Nova Scotia maps and topographical maps, can also be ordered and paid for online and through the SMSMR call centre.

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Internet-connected Service Nova Scotia Express kiosks have also been installed in Registry of Deeds and Access Nova Scotia centres in 19 communities. Service Nova Scotia Express allows citizens to obtain government services and products easier and faster than ever before. These self-serve work stations provide a computer with Internet connection, a phone line linked to the Service Nova Scotia call centre (902-424-5200, toll-free 1-800-670-4357), a variety of frequently requested forms, brochures and updates on provincial programs and services.

In addition to SNSMR's efforts to improve service to Nova Scotians, other departments and agencies of government have been working to address a number of the frustrations brought to the attention of the Red Tape Task Force.

- **Alcohol and Gaming Authority Applications Now Online**

  Community-based charitable organizations that wish to raise funds through ticket lotteries are no longer facing extra costs imposed by the one-size-fits-all approach to regulations. In an effort to improve the application process for ticket lottery licensees, the Alcohol and Gaming Authority has set up an online application process through its public web site. Available for both ticket lottery licences (with prize values of over $500) and ticket lottery permits (with prize values below $500), this process is intended to save charitable organizations time and travel money.

- **Student Loan Applications Now Online**

  The Department of Education made applying for student loans faster and easier in June 2001 with the launch of its online system. By late July, about 65 per cent of all applicants were using this method, which improves efficiency by providing a status check to ensure all necessary information has been supplied, as well as utilizing "smart" features that bypass inapplicable information. For example, if applicants state that they have no children, no further questions regarding dependants will appear.

  The process also allows applicants to save partially completed forms and return later to complete their submission. And it saves most personal information to make future applications faster and easier. The department has further streamlined the process for both paper and online applications, by requesting fewer supporting documents.

- **New Streamlined Licensing Process for Tourism Accomodations**

  In the past, the process for licensing tourism accommodations was difficult for small operators because it involved several regulatory bodies and little information was available on how to contact them. Nova Scotia Department of Tourism and Culture has streamlined this process by expanding their licensing information kit to include all licences, permits and approvals required to obtain a fixed roof accommodation or campground licence. The department also acts as the liaison between operators and other regulatory bodies, so operators can get the information they need from a single source.

Recommendation #4

Complete the implementation of the Licences, Permits and Approvals (LPA) process.

"We support the recommendation of the 1997 Task Force on Licences, Permits and Approvals (LPA) that licences, permits and registrations be valid for three years, instead of one. "

Action

The results of the recent Licences, Permits and Approvals review indicated that many of the recommendations have been implemented, with particular attention being paid to:

- Implementing three-year renewals for LPAs;
- Providing a single entry-point, which automatically links clients to information and required processes;
- Establishing a central directory and registry;
- Accepting both debit and credit cards;
- Operating with efficient turnaround times;
- Subjecting LPAs to periodic reviews using appropriate criteria.

Of the recommendations that remain outstanding, some are now outdated, while others will be advanced in modified forms. However, many others are being implemented because they achieve the intended goal: "to improve service delivery to the public, while maintaining efficient government operation." In addition, the Nova Scotia Business Registry is making it easier to meet the standards recommended by the Licences, Permits and Approvals Task Force (1997).

To address several of the key points noted above, staff have prepared a plan for developing a licensing policy to set government-wide standards for licensing procedures and to specify criteria for new licences.

With respect to initiating periodic reviews, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries reported that the current Permits, Approvals and Licences (PAAL) database managed by SNSMR provides a systematic annual review of the department's licences, permits and approvals. One example cited by the department is the proposed elimination of the egg hatchery and the egg wholesaler's licences because federal legislation now regulates this industry.

Furthermore, in response to the recommendation for implementing three-year renewals for LPAs, the Alcohol and Gaming Authority is in the process of proposing amendments to several regulations. Among those that would move from a term of 12 months to three years are bingo series licensees, ticket lottery licensees, theatre operators, place of amusement licensees, and film exchange.

In an effort to eliminate unnecessary regulations and the one-size-fits-all approach that was consistently criticized during presentations to the Red Tape Reduction Task Force, proposed amendments would also exempt low-revenue bingo operators (those who do not award prizes valued at more than $30,000 over a 52-week period, or $2,500 for any single bingo event) from the detailed reporting requirements, fees and minimum rate of return requirements which govern all charitable bingo operators.

The requirement for licensing commercial film projectors and their operators would also be eliminated, as well as those affecting casino gaming assistants in the food and beverage sector, who will have a reduced security clearance because they do not have access to the gaming floor.

The three proposals for regulatory amendment listed above were prepared in consultation with the Department of Justice and have received approval from the Registry of Regulations. The Alcohol and Gaming Authority has forwarded the proposed amendments as a package to the Deputy Minister of the Department of Environment and Labour to process through Cabinet.

Recommendation #5

Allow businesses to pay by debit and credit cards

Action

Enabling government offices to accept debit and credit cards was a major recommendation of both the Red Tape Reduction Task Force and the LPA Task Force. Today, the Registry of Motor Vehicles, Registry of Deeds offices, Registry of Joint Stock Companies and the Vital Statistics office accept debit and credit cards.

As well, in addition to the usual cash or cheque methods of payment, restaurants, bars and other licensees can use a debit or credit card to pay for liquor purchased for resale at either Nova Scotia Liquor Commission retail stores or the licensee facility in Bayers Lake. The debit card has been available for some time, while credit card payment has been introduced within the last few months.

The Alcohol and Gaming Authority has also set up a debit card machine at its customer service counter for people seeking a licence. Customers can now avoid situations in which they may not have enough cash on hand to pay their fee.

Recommendation #7

Enforce regulations, but don't treat businesses as adversaries

> *"We believe it is time to move towards a more collaborative, constructive approach to enforcing regulations. Too often, business and government inspectors think of each other as enemies. Instead, it is time to focus on outcomes; time to acknowledge that everyone wants a safe workplace and the best way to achieve that is through co-operation."*

Action

In a submission to the Task Force last August, the Restaurant and Food Services Association praised the provincial Food Safety Division as a model that has moved inspectors away from inflexible, adversarial enforcement to a results-oriented, problem-solving approach. The association representative suggested the model be expanded to other inspection services.

A review of the application of this model to other regulatory enforcement functions of government revealed that it cannot be applied across the board. Some difficulties and potential conflicts arise when the role of serving clients by providing expertise and acting as advocate conflicts with the role of regulator.

It was also inappropriate for use by the Department of Environment and Labour, because it is a permit-based system. Applying for a permit prompts the review of plans and the operations proposed. It also triggers a site visit. Each establishment must meet a predefined set of criteria and be inspected prior to the permit being issued. Although possible to implement, administering such a system for the 45,000 registered employers in the province would appear to add to the bureaucratic burden faced by employers.

Instead, the department has taken other steps to improve delivery mechanisms for inspection services. For example, as part of a restructuring effort, it is examining ways to merge regional boundaries and regional/district offices of the former departments of the environment and labour, Alcohol and Gaming Authority and the Office of the Fire Marshal, with an eye to increasing cross-functional inspection delivery. Where possible, clients will have access to a greater range of information and services through a single entry-point.

Again, in the pursuit of customer-focussed service, the department's Occupational Health and Safety Division has mandated quality service orientation for all staff. This training has a client-service emphasis and provides information on problem-solving strategies. In addition to the service delivery approaches, training is provided in all operational areas including applicable regulations, which helps to ensure consistency in the way staff handle the situations they encounter in the course of their work.

Recommendation #8

Make public communication a top priority

"Government departments and responsibilities often change and evolve, leaving the public confused. The Task Force recommends a more concerted program of communicating, advertising, and promoting those changes to the public. Government services need to have local government offices, offering clear information brochures, and Internet access."

Action

Although all departments have a responsibility to effectively communicate with the public and businesses, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations plays a key role through its call centre. Despite increased Internet activity, use of the telephone to access government information and services has not declined. In fact, as cell phone use skyrockets, the volume of calls for information about programs and services grows steadily. SNSMR has responded by increasing the capacity and broadening the functions of the Service Nova Scotia call centre. Staff provide information on government programs and services to more than half a million callers each year.

SNSMR's call centre is consistently taking on a more integral role in the department's goal of providing one-stop shopping for government programs and services. Through the call centre, Nova Scotians can get information or an accurate referral on virtually any government program or service. More and more government information is available by calling one central number (1-800-670-4357).

The toll-free call centre number, along with the department's web site address, appears on all promotional material and is publicized widely through Access Nova Scotia and other government publications.

To promote the use of the call centre and other services, SNSMR was recently involved in reorganizing the blue pages in the telephone book into a more user-friendly resource. The new blue pages, which will be published starting in late 2001, will reflect the most common government programs and services organized from a consumer's perspective, not government's.

SNSMR is also working to improve electronic access to information on government programs and services by enhancing the search capabilities and the organization of information on the province's web site. Significant projects such as Registry 2000 have their own web site within SNSMR's departmental site. As well, Registry 2000 sends a newsletter to more than 4,000 users and stakeholders three times a year.

Recommendation #10

Change licensing rules for restaurants and bars

Action

Overall, the government is moving toward three-year terms for LPA where it makes sense. The Alcohol and Gaming Authority is in the process of proposing an amendment to the Liquor Licensing Regulations which would create a maximum three-year licence term instead of a 12-month term for Nova Scotia's liquor licensees, with fees adjusted accordingly.

However, with regard to food inspections, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries advises that an annual renewal of restaurant licences is required because of constant changes in the restaurant sector, including changes in operations, ownership, openings, closings and the link between annual permits and inspections as risk management tools. Where public safety is an issue, such as food inspections, the 12-month term will remain in place.

Recommendation #12

Remove out-of-date, unworkable regulations from the books

> *"We asked each department to examine and review its regulations for negative, unnecessary impacts on business."*

Action

The first step to eliminating obstacles to economic growth is identifying them. In the government's first economic growth strategy in over a decade, Opportunities for Prosperity, the Department of Economic Development committed to develop and publish Nova Scotia's first comprehensive Business Climate Index. The Business Climate Index will not only objectively measure Nova Scotia's economic competitiveness against other jurisdictions, it will help the Department of Economic Development to identify and work to eliminate areas of common frustration and/or waste in order to ensure Nova Scotia makes progress as a business-friendly environment.

The government has also committed to a review of all agencies, boards and commissions. A number of these organizations have already been eliminated through legislation or policy changes, including the Halifax Port Development Commission, Bedford Waterfront Development Corporation, Alcohol and Gaming Authority Board, Sydney Steel Corporation Board, and Energy and Mineral Resources Conservation Board.

Other examples of progress in this regard can be found in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, with the repeal of outdated or redundant laws and regulations as well as the elimination of a number of agencies, boards and commissions. Highlights of activity or initiatives within this department include the following:

- The *Dairy Industry Act* repealed the *Dairy Commission Act* and placed regulation of the dairy sector under a single agency, the Natural Products Marketing Council, along with that of other regulated agricultural commodities.

- The *Agricultural Amendment Act* passed during the spring session of the legislature. Included in this was the repeal of the *Beef Commission Act* (eliminating the NS Beef Commission); the repeal of the *Grain and Forage Commission Act* (eliminating the Grain and Forage Commission); the repeal of the *Livestock Loans Guarantee Act* and amending the *Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition Commission Act* to eliminate the requirement for a Governor-in-Council appointment to the commission.
- Also in the spring 2001 session, the *Livestock Health Services Act* was passed to replace existing legislation. Although a single provincial board has replaced 22 local boards, the cost savings will be minimal because the frequency of meetings will increase. However, efficiency will improve as a result of the significant time saved in administrative work.
- As well, three inactive committees were eliminated, and the review of agencies, boards and commissions will continue with the possibility of eliminating or combining others. Additional recommendations in this regard from Agriculture and Fisheries will be brought forward for action in the fall of 2001 and the spring of 2002.

Public Highways Act – Advertising Signs Regulations

In its submission to the Red Tape Reduction Task Force, the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia urged the government "to put the new (signage) policy in place as soon as possible."

A moratorium on signage regulations was put in place in 1984. A review of new and more effective advertising signage regulations has been completed with stakeholder involvement and public consultation. Recommendations were made to government for new advertising sign regulations, a business logo program and a uniform traveller directional sign program.

The necessary amendments to the *Public Highways Act* were introduced in the spring 2001 session of the legislature and approved by Order-in-Council effective July 15, 2001. The new regulations are being implemented throughout the province.

Two recommendations not accepted

The 12 recommendations were generally well received, with the exception of the recommendation on Sunday shopping and the deregulation of the bus system.

Recommendation #9

Empower municipalities to set their own retail hours

> *"The desire for expanded retail hours varies greatly from place to place in Nova Scotia, therefore, it seems logical that the decision making power should rest at the local level."*

This recommendation was not accepted by the government. After a great deal of debate and discussion, it became evident that there was no clear consensus on deregulating retail hours. Following the release of its interim report, the Red Tape Reduction Task Force received numerous responses objecting to the recommendation that the decision should rest with each municipality.

Many municipalities disagreed that they should be empowered to set their own retail hours. They expressed concerns that an uneven playing field would be created and there would be a negative economic impact on rural communities if urban centres remained open. Municipalities also felt the issue should remain a provincial responsibility.

Although the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce surveyed its members and found that 83 per cent were in favour of deregulated hours, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, representing the majority of small and medium business operators in Nova Scotia, reported that many of its members opposed the recommendation and indicated a strong desire to maintain the status quo. A petition from unionized workers in the retail sector also opposed Sunday shopping.

The tourism industry, however, said the Red Tape Reduction Task force missed the point. The tourism industry questioned why one sector's hours of operations is regulated, while other sectors are not regulated and free to decide their own hours of operation. The tourism industry argues that the business operators, not the provincial nor municipal level of government, should have the ability to decide their own hours of operation based on customer and market demand.

On March 20, 2001, the province announced it would not consider legislative changes to the Retail Business Uniform Closing Day Act any earlier than 2005.

Recommendation #11

Deregulate the bus system

> *"The current controls of a regulated bus service have done nothing to stop the decline in scheduled service. In other provinces, deregulation hasn't hurt service. Deregulation should benefit the consumer and entrepreneurs. At the same time, the government should introduce sufficient regulations to ensure safety. Right now, only buses have safety regulations; we must ensure that all forms of public transport can meet some agreed standards for safety. This is a balanced, sensible approach."*

Action

Government has decided not to proceed with economic deregulation of the bus industry at this time in order to allow for further consultation.

However, new safety regulations for commercial vans are being drafted by Transportation and Public Works and will be forwarded to Executive Council for approval.

The Red Tape Reduction Task Force agrees that safety regulations for minivan use as public transit are important and necessary. However, with respect to the lack of competition in a closed market, the Task Force continues to stand by its earlier recommendation. As noted in the interim report: "Other provinces that have deregulated the scheduled market say it hasn't caused a drop in service. Competition should be good for the consumer and entrepreneurs trying to expand into the public passenger sector."

Follow-up on specific issues identified through the consultation process

The Red Tape Reduction Task Force continues to address suggestions concerning reducing red tape, the paper burden and delays. Discussions have taken place between the Task Force and various departments to identify opportunities to further streamline processes. Examples of recent improvements are as follows:

Streamlining the Environmental Approval Process

The Department of Environment and Labour is reviewing the standard process for obtaining approvals for selected activities. The department currently issues more than 12,000 approvals under the Environment Act annually for over 150 activities that have the potential to adversely affect the environment and human health. Where appropriate, the process will be modified to improve service delivery while maintaining necessary environmental standards. The following are techniques the department has employed to reduce red tape and streamline the approvals process:

- **Development of Standard Terms and Conditions for Approvals**

  In an effort to reduce the time it takes for the department to issue an environmental approval, standard terms and conditions have been developed for several activities including on-site sewage systems, sewage treatment plants, selected watercourse alteration activities, bio-remediation facilities and pesticide applications. Approximately 75 per cent of approvals can be issued using standard terms and conditions.

- **Improved Information Management**

  Department of Environment and Labour has developed an Environmental Information Management Access System, which is designed to ensure that time commitments are met and standards consistently applied within all regions. The system also encourages inspectors to develop efficient inspection, enforcement and monitoring schedules.

Streamlining the Environmental Assessment Process

To make Environmental Assessment Regulations more user-friendly, the department has developed the following guidance documents to assist proponents and the public:

- A Citizen's Guide to Environmental Assessment
- A Proponent's Guide to Environmental Assessment
- Information Bulletin: Regulatory Time Frames in Environmental Assessment
- Information Bulletin: Developments that Require Environmental Assessment

Changes to Environmental Assessment Regulations that reflect the red tape reduction objective include:

- **Natural Gas Pipelines**

  The Environmental Assessment Regulations have been amended to restrict environmental assessment review to larger natural gas transmission pipelines. The change allows the department to treat natural gas pipelines the same way that urban utilities such as water pipelines and steam pipelines are treated.

- **Wind Energy**

  Proposed amendments to the Environmental Assessment Regulations would lessen the burden on entry-level projects by reducing assessments from 275 days to 25 days for the bulk of projects.

  Currently, every wind energy project over 10 megawatts is automatically subjected to a detailed Class 2 (275-day) assessment process, including public hearings. Meanwhile, projects under 10 megawatts are not required to undergo any form of environmental assessment.

  Under the proposed changes, every wind energy project over two megawatts would be subject to a Class 1 (25-day) environmental assessment. Unless significant environmental issues are noted, a more detailed review would not be required.

The Task Force highlights these amendments as an example of a regulatory change that effectively balances streamlining efforts and safety issues. Although the proposed amendments would see smaller projects (over two megawatts) subject to environmental assessments the bulk of utility-scale wind energy projects in Nova Scotia produce over 10 megawatts. The changes would therefore benefit the largest group, while promoting wind energy by reducing entry-level barriers and disincentives. They would also bring a new degree of public protection to projects under two megawatts, which are currently not accountable to environmental regulations.

The proposed changes will be undergoing public review. The environmental assessment process for other renewable energy sources will be evaluated during the upcoming review of regulations.

On-site Disposal Systems Approval Process

Department of Environment and Labour has initiated a process to evaluate the turnaround or response times for applications and approvals for the installation of on-site sewage disposal systems. Comparing the period from April 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000 with the period from January 1, 2001 to May 17, 2001, the average turnaround time has been reduced from 33.5 days to 13.2 days.

This data continues to be monitored and follow-up action carried out to analyze and address inconsistencies in response times across regions and to establish targets for future turnaround time. During the initial year of implementation, staff have been auditing approximately 40 per cent of installations across the province. The department intends to continue auditing in Year Two as the number of applications and observations of actual system selections and installations have been lower than projected.

About 50 per cent of on-site disposal systems are processed in metro, where average turnaround time is very good. This distorts the picture for applicants in rural Nova Scotia, where there is still considerable room for improvement. We agree with the department's plan to focus on these problem areas and we recommend that standards for response times be established.

Fire Safety Act

The Nova Scotia Building Officials Association (NSBOA) believes that, in its current form, the proposed Fire Safety Act, Bill 58, would create duplication and confusion between the administration and enforcement of the Building Code and the Fire Code. The NSBOA advises that the legislation would set up a provincial process of inspecting buildings which have already been inspected for compliance by the municipal unit under the *Building Code Act*.

The Fire Marshal advised that the proposed fire safety bill removes the Office of the Fire Marshal/ Public Safety Division from responsibility for examination of plans and inspections of all buildings that are not provincial undertakings. Under the proposed new bill, the Office of the Fire Marshal/ Public Safety Division would serve only as advisor to the building inspector.

A select committee of the legislature has been established to gather further input on the bill from municipalities and the fire service. Public hearings are being held.

Sprinkler Regulations

One submission to the Red Tape Reduction Task force suggested that the province get out of the fire inspection business and leave it to insurance companies.

The Task Force brought the suggestion forward at a meeting with representatives of the Insurance Bureau of Canada. The Insurance Bureau made it clear the industry was not in the business of enacting or enforcing regulations. Each insurance company sets its own requirements and rate structures, with many of them specializing in offering various products.

The Task Force believes government does have a role in regulating fire safety. While the Insurance Bureau response removed the option of private-sector control, the issue of common sense still bears consideration. The Task Force has asked the department to review the regulations in light of complaints and report back. The department has commissioned a consultant engineer to review the Nova Scotia sprinkler requirements and the National Building Code sprinkler requirements to determine the best course of action to bring together differing requirements while maintaining life safety in buildings.

First Aid Regulations

The chair of the Task Force heard from a retail operator who owns several small stores in different shopping malls who feels excessively burdened by Occupational Health and Safety regulations pertaining to first aid training.

The concern related to a high staff turnover and the need to continuously retrain. Occupational Health and Safety regulations require at least one trained first aid attendant at every retail outlet. This means all employees require first aid training — a cumbersome and costly process.

It was suggested that each mall be considered a work site that could provide a first aid attendant/station on behalf of all retail operators. Amendments to the First Aid Regulations to allow employers, such as stores in shopping malls to share first aid services, became effective September 3, 2001.

In addition to the changes noted above, amendments to First Aid Regulations have given employers more flexibility in training and delivery. Any organization with federal approval to teach first aid is now considered qualified to teach in Nova Scotia. Under the previous regulations, only St. John Ambulance and the Canadian Red Cross Society were allowed to offer such training.

Other revisions effective September 3, 2001 include lifting the restriction on administering medication, clarifying which costs for first aid training are paid by the employer, and allowing changes in the way employers report accidents.

Fuel Tax Exemption Permit

The Cattlemen's Association made a submission asking the Task Force to address the issue of $75 fee that was to be charged to farmers every three years for an authorization to purchase tax-exempt marked gasoline or diesel oil.

Until January 2001, this permit (previously referred to as a "letter of authorization" and available to operators in a number of industries) was a one-time permit process with no expiration date. The proposed process would require the applicant to complete a Business Application Profile Information Form every three years and remit a $75 fee. The applicant would have been given the option not to renew his/her permit and instead file an application for a refund of fuel taxes paid. The introduction of a permit with a three-year renewal was in keeping with standards proposed by the LPA Task Force in 1997.

The Cattlemen's Association took issue with the requirement to apply to renew this permit every three years and with the introduction of the renewal fee. Association members viewed the process as unnecessary red tape and saw the new fee as additional input cost to the industry. The farm community also felt that the majority of their members already registered as farms and should therefore have access to the fuel permit without additional cost.

The Task Force arranged for discussions to take place between the Registrar of Farms and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. Amendments to *Revenue Act* regulations became effective August 16, 2001. The three-year renewal term applies to all marked fuel consumers. However, a grandfathering provision exempted consumers who had authorization to purchase marked gasoline or diesel prior to April 1, 1996 from the fee.

Power Lines

In a submission to the Task Force last March, Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) raised concerns regarding the approval process pertaining to the construction of power lines across Crown land, and the construction or placement of power lines across rail lines. The Task Force continues to coordinate responses from appropriate departments to resolve the hurdles identified by NSPI.

Private Career College Instructor Approval Process

A representative from the private career college sector raised concerns about the intrusiveness of the Department of Education concerning the selection of instructors. It was suggested that as long as a college has gone through the selection process with due diligence, and submitted the appropriate paperwork to demonstrate the minimum credentials for each instructor have been met, it should be free to make its own hiring decisions.

The Department of Education advises that registration in accordance with the *Private Career Colleges Act* is required annually. The process became more cumbersome last year with the implementation of the new act. In order to update files and provide new tuition costs, as well as start and end dates for programs, all colleges were treated as new applicants and each required to submit a business plan as part of registration. The impact on private career colleges was temporary and implementation of the new act has been largely completed. The reapplication process for 2001–02 will be less onerous. Colleges will not be required to resubmit a business plan, existing course curricula, or industry reviews.

With respect to instructor approvals, Section 24 of the General Regulations stipulates that colleges submit an instructor qualification form, which outlines the instructor's academic credentials and work experience, as well as a resume and copies of certificates/diplomas. Once approved, this information does not have to be resubmitted unless the college expands the instructor's position to include other programs.

The department acknowledges that requirements to register under the *Private Career Colleges Act* are onerous, but asserts that the situation is necessary to protect students. It is the department's responsibility to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, instructors have the specific educational and/or industry experience required to provide educational instruction.

The department noted that in a number of cases, instructors submitted for approval did not have the qualifications to teach specific aspects of the curriculum. These instructors were, however, approved for those sections they were qualified to instruct. The department contends that if this review were not in place, instructors would have been hired who did not meet the established standards.

The department also reported that the turnaround time for instructor approval is generally less than five working days. Colleges that request a faster response are dealt with immediately. Turnaround may exceed five working days when questions arise from the review or the college has not provided all required information.

The Task Force supports the intent of regulations that set standards for student protection. However, we are sympathetic to the operators, agreeing that government is intrusive when it gives itself authority to approve who should or should not be hired in a private company. The goal of ensuring consumer protection should be achieved through less intrusive means.

For example, the department does not approve university instructors on an individual basis. Only when universities create a new program of study are they required to apply through the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission for approval. This quality control requires that the university outline the number of professors needed, the areas of specialization and qualifications required. The process is similar for the community colleges, as all new programs must be directly approved by the Minister of Education.

The Task Force calls for a review of the regulations that give Department of Education authority over final approval of instructors to determine if a less intrusive method can achieve the same objective.

Occupational Health and Safety Issues

With regard to occupational health and safety, the Task Force has summarized input to date and has met with each of the Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council co-chairs and the Deputy Minister. Following these discussions and the response from departmental officials, it is clear that many small businesses and community development organizations simply do not understand the requirements of the act and regulations. Many reported perceived requirements that either did not apply to them or were in fact beyond the actual requirements of the act and regulations. The problem of misunderstanding is very serious as respondents perceive that the requirements are overly onerous and beyond reason. As a result, in despair, some small business are ignoring the act and regulations. Clearly, an education and awareness campaign is required.

The Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council was created in 1986 under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to advise the Minister of Labour. It is a joint vehicle for employers and unions. Accordingly, the advisory council has equal representation from employer and employee groups, as well as members from the Department of Environment and Labour.

While it is recognized that the advisory council is the appropriate body to advise the Minister on these matters, it is perceived as primarily representing larger employers with unionized workers, and small businesses believe they are under-represented.

Although the Red Tape Reduction Task Force has served as an independent consultation vehicle to receive complaints and suggestions, it does not have the technical expertise to make specific recommendations concerning occupational health and safety. Nor does it wish to add to the problem of misinformation.

Therefore, it was decided that the appropriate action of the Task Force is to present the Minister responsible with the summary of submissions and the recommendation that the Minister seek advice from the Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council, which is well positioned to address the technical aspects of the act and regulations.

Examples of occupational health and safety issues that will be referred for resolution are:

- **Tractors' Roll Bars**

  The chair of the Safety Committee of the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia (APENS) told the Red Tape Reduction Task Force about a situation involving tractors that has caused him grief and could lead to a flood of paperwork on the desks of farmers and public servants.

  The root of the problem lies in the Occupational Health and Safety regulations that were pending at the time of his submission (scheduled to come into effect November 1, 2000). He explained that many of the tractors with roll bars used in Nova Scotia are American-made. The tractors' roll bars do meet stringent American regulatory safety standards, but they do not have the seal of approval from the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Without CSA approval, the tractor could not be used in Nova Scotia, according to the new occupational health and safety rules.

  To overcome this problem, each tractor owner and dealership would have to apply to the Department of Environment and Labour for a deviation to accept the American safety standards. That could cause difficulties for hundreds of farmers, while burdening the province with an enormous administrative problem.

  The Safety Committee chair offered a simpler solution. As soon as one tractor owner is granted a deviation for his tractor, the province could apply a blanket deviation to all tractor owners who are in the same situation. The Task Force followed up on this issue with the Department of Environment and Labour. As a result, the department initiated an assessment of US safety standards on tractor roll bars.

  On the advice of an engineering consulting firm contracted by the department, it was concluded that some US Automotive Standards match Canadian criteria. A ruling from the department on the issue has been posted on the department's web site (www.gov.ns.ca/enla/). On the Occupational Health and Safety section, it appears on the publications page.

However, perceived differences in the testing requirements between the US Department of Labour's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standard and the CSA resulted in a rejection of other US standards.

APENS continues to question the rationale used to accept some standards while rejecting others. But the Department of Environment and Labour does not agree with APENS.

The Task Force will refer this issue to the Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council to advise the Minister.

- **Proposal to Restructure Occupational Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation in Nova Scotia**

  Representatives of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the Construction Association of Nova Scotia made submission to the Red Tape Reduction Task Force. The Report of the Employer Working Group on the Restructuring of Occupational Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation in Nova Scotia is a comprehensive analysis that responds to the government commitment to "pursue strategies to reduce the high cost of Workers Compensation: restructuring the Occupational Health and Safety Division and the Workers Compensation Board to operate under one board that is equally representative of business and labour."

  The Employer Working Group proposed that a new organization be created from the two existing structures. They advised that the new organization must create a vision and corporate culture that emphasizes the importance of prevention and the creation of safe workplaces. They recommended that a clear statement be made regarding service quality and accountability to the stakeholders and the larger community. And they proposed a goal to achieve an orderly process for regulatory review and the introduction of periodic improvements to the system in a reasonable fashion involving the stakeholders.

  Their report is also timely and worthy of consideration and input from all stakeholders. This issue will likely come up during the review of the *Workers' Compensation Act*. Comments from all stakeholders will be useful to the government in determining the implementation of this commitment. Under the Terms of Reference for the WCB review, the roles, responsibilities, relationships and governance of the WCB will be examined.

Framework for the Ongoing Review of Regulations

Every new and newly amended regulation offers two distinct opportunities that cannot be missed:

- the opportunity to prevent the creation of unnecessary regulations and red tape
- the chance to implement within government a tool to assess the costs and benefits of new regulations and those under review.

Accordingly, the Task Force has drafted a framework for the review of regulations beyond its term. The Task Force welcomes feedback on the framework, specifically, on the Regulation Criteria Checklist described below.

Prevention of Unnecessary Regulations and Red Tape

Because it is far easier to prevent unnecessary regulations from coming into force than to eliminate those that are ingrained in the system, the Task Force is recommending the appointment of a Red Tape Reduction commissioner to work with departments at the early stage of developing and assessing proposed regulations. The commissioner would ensure departments consider the range of measures at government's disposal before jumping to regulatory solutions.

The RTR commissioner would ensure that the initiative is championed and kept alive. Regulations should be reviewed periodically. The LPA Task Force recommended that as a matter of course each regulation should come up for review every five years. The commissioner would oversee the scheduling and review process. The commissioner would also provide an input mechanism so that businesses and consumers can register their concerns. The commissioner would also investigate complaints and work with the departments to resolve issues and improve efficiencies.

Tool to Assess Costs and Benefits of Regulations

The Task Force is looking at ways to ensure that new and amended regulations make sense to everyone: those who make them, those who use them and those who require them. It is the best foundation on which to build better, more efficient and more progressive government. The best way to do this is to ensure that regulations are drafted clearly using plain language where possible. Businesses reported that because of the way regulations are drafted, they must seek legal counsel to interpret what they must do to comply with the regulations. This adds to their cost of doing business.

A draft Regulation Criteria Check List (see Appendix 2) has been developed after researching other jurisdictions, and in consultation with departments and the Legislative Review Committee. The joint submission by representatives of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the Construction Association of Nova Scotia also provided a very useful framework for regulatory review.

The Task Force is proposing that departments use the Criteria Check List whenever they review existing regulations or develop new regulations. The objective of the Criteria Check List is to cause rigorous policy assessment that includes consideration of the impacts and benefits of the proposal.

The Criteria Check List is designed to: analyze the problem to be addressed by the regulation, determine the most appropriate intervention from among the various policy instruments available to government, and determine that the proposed intervention will in fact solve the problem for which it is intended. Further, it will help ensure that the administration of the regulation is efficient and not overly costly to business or government.

The Criteria Check List includes six categories of questions designed to ensure that: the objective of the policy is clear, there is meaningful consultation with interested parties, alternatives are considered and the costs and benefits are evaluated and compared against viable alternatives.

Once the department or regulatory agency has completed its consultations and assessment, and is satisfied that the proposed new or amended regulation is the most effective and efficient means of intervention, it is then approved as to form and authority by the department's solicitor and the Registrar of Regulations. From there, Treasury and Policy Board staff make recommendations to Cabinet.

Acts and Regulations for Review

The acts and regulations slated for review, repeal or amendments vary considerably, but each represents an opportunity to take out a magnifying glass and dissect the pages in search of irrelevance, redundancy and red tape. Appendix 3 provides a complete list of regulations that have been flagged for this round of review.

Where possible, the reviews are to be completed by the end of March 2002. However, some reviews will take longer than others due to the complexity of the problem and the degree of consultations required. In these instances, the Task Force has asked the departments to provide review plans and time lines.

The following provides examples of the types of regulations and processes that are up for review.

Balancing protection and convenience

The Department of Environment and Labour is reviewing and updating several regulations under the *Environment Act*, including the Activities Designation Regulations and the Approvals Procedure Regulations, to ensure protection of the environment with minimal inconvenience to clients.

Improving safety while slashing red tape

Plans are under way to review the regulations governing motor vehicle inspections so that improvements to road safety are complemented by reduced red tape for citizens, inspection stations and mechanics.

Unearthing potential reforms

As part of the Inventory of Regulations review completed in September 2001, the Department of Natural Resources identified a number of regulations that had potential for eliminating, simplifying or streamlining procedures and processes. A number of promising areas are ripe for reduction, including regulations under the *Mineral Resources Act* and *Treasure Trove Act*. For example, "treasure" is regulated by both the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Tourism and Culture (*Special Places Protection Act*), with each act having a different objective. Consequently the permitting process can be onerous and lengthy. *The Treasure Trove Act* could be transferred to the Department of Tourism and Culture so that matters related to treasure are coordinated in the same department. An update on these will be submitted at a later date.

Eliminating irrelevance

There has only ever been one designation under the *Trails Act*. It is now defunct and the current regulations are no longer relevant. Additionally, the designation process is cumbersome and time-consuming. The Department of Natural Resources is working with the Sport and Recreation Commission on a new act to allow provincial groups to register their trail and immediately gain limited liability and other advantages they find attractive. Legislation is expected to be brought forward in the spring of 2002.

Revising Provincial Parks Act

Natural Resources is in the initial stages of reviewing the *Provincial Parks Act*. Where changes are required, revisions to the legislation and regulations will be put forward. There is no firm timetable, but the intent is to make the changes in a year or two.

Addressing forestry issues

Forestry issues brought to the Red Tape Reduction Task Force included regulations under the *Forest Act*, such as Christmas Tree Levy, Christmas Tree Grading, Timber Loan Board and Forest Fire Protection. The Department of Natural Resources is continuing discussions with industry and others affected by these issues.

Shopping for a new act

The *Shopping Centre Development Act* was enacted in 1979 to provide public and municipal input into the location of shopping centres in excess of 50,000 square feet. The act was introduced at a time when few municipalities had planning policies in place and shopping centres were typically the only retail facilities of this size. Today, more municipalities have implemented planning policies and stand-alone retail operations in the 50,000-square-foot range are more commonplace (i.e., grocery stores and retail chains like Kent or Walmart). SNSMR is consulting with municipalities through the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities about this act.

Examining wool grading relevance

The Sheep Producers of Nova Scotia are being consulted on whether the wool grading regulations should be repealed or revised. Wool grading regulations fall under the *Agriculture and Marketing Act*. Therefore, if consultations determine that this section of the act is no longer relevant, it will be slated for removal.

Food and meat inspection

A major initiative is under way to draft new food and meat inspection regulations which will replace the provincial Food Establishment Regulations and numerous municipal Food Shop Regulations. This initiative will serve to streamline regulations and create consistency across the province. An extensive consultation will take place on the draft regulations.

Aquaculture lease and licence

Aquaculture lease and licence documents, some as old as 15 years, are under review and will be updated to reflect changes in the industry and to be consistent with more recent regulations. They will be rewritten to eliminate repetition and unnecessary language, as necessary. The recommendations of the Red Tape Reduction Task Force are also being incorporated where possible.

New Dairy Act prompts changes

In light of the ability to adopt dairy product standards under the new *Dairy Industry Act*, both the *Margarine Act* and the *Imitation Dairy Act* will be reviewed with industry stakeholders for revision or elimination. Recommendations stemming from this review process are expected before the end of 2002.

Updating 24-year-old co-op legislation

An interdepartmental team is currently reviewing the *Co-operative Associations Act*. Legislation governing co-operatives in Nova Scotia dates back to 1977. The goal is to have amended legislation in the House of Assembly in the fall of 2001.

In addition to updating the language of the act and attending to several housekeeping items, the new act will deal with a series of emerging and new issues that had not been contemplated in the 1977 legislation. It will also seek to streamline and simplify the government procedures for starting, overseeing and winding up co-operatives.

Next Series of Recommendations

The Task Force's objective is a smarter, more balanced regulatory environment that both protects the public and promotes economic prosperity. Commitment and accountability must be shared throughout government by Ministers, Deputy Ministers, officials and front-line staff. Red tape reduction must be an integral part of the government mind-set, structures (departments and agencies), business-planning and Cabinet decision-making processes.

It is therefore recommended that:

1. A Red Tape Reduction commissioner be appointed to provide an input mechanism so that businesses and consumers can register their problems and have complaints investigated and resolved where possible. The commissioner would report to the Minister of Treasury and Policy Board. The commissioner should be a well-respected individual from the private sector with extensive business background and a proven ability to analyze cost/benefit impacts. The appointment should be for a two-year period, with the opportunity to renew for an additional two years. The appointment should be made through the normal Human Resources Committee process.
2. Government adopt the principle of reducing red tape in its operations wherever possible. Red tape reduction should be an integral part of the government corporate culture. Departments should be instructed to work toward this overall objective or principle, and to use the recommendations from the original report as guidelines for the types of issues that should be addressed. Where needed, Treasury and Policy Board (TPB) would ensure that corporate initiatives are championed and facilitated. For example, one of the recommendations was that government departments offer debit and credit transactions. TPB would co-ordinate corporate credit card agreements to enable departments to implement these payment methods.
3. That, as a starting point, TPB set up a workshop on the principles and processes for red tape reduction for Deputy Ministers and other senior program people.

4. Departments be held accountable for pursuing the objective of red tape reduction, and that Ministers be required to submit red tape reduction plans as part of the annual business planning process. Each department would include this as a separate strategic goal and identify specific initiatives aimed at achieving it.

5. Assessment tools and monitoring mechanisms be developed to reinforce and provide accountability for red tape reduction. The Criteria Check List is one example of an assessment tool to be used by departments when formulating new regulations, and to be reviewed/analyzed as a part of the TPB staff assessment/challenge role. The Registry of Regulations' Style and Procedures manual is another such tool.

   Departments should also highlight achievements in reducing red tape within their annual accountability reports.

Note: While the Red Tape Reduction Task Force agrees that the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is the most qualified body to advise the Minister on technical aspects of occupational health and safety, the Task Force would be remiss not to report on the overwhelming and urgent need for an education and awareness campaign on the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and Regulations.

Next Steps

Departments have been given until the end of March 2002 to review red-flagged regulations (see Appendix 3).

Until March 2002, the Task Force will continue to check on progress and pursue resolutions where conflicting views exist. It will seek stakeholder input to finalize the Criteria Check List and the proposed assessment process. It will also continue to accept and assess written submissions and continue to meet with individuals and representatives of business, labour and community groups.

In March, the Task Force will review each department's assessment and other information gathered. It will submit a final report to the Minister of Treasury and Policy Board in the spring of 2002.

Appendix 1: Consultation Schedule

Red Tape Reduction Consultation Meetings

Date	*Name*	*Association*
April 18, 2000	Breakfast Session	Alliance of Exporters' and Manufacturers'
		Canadian Federation of Independent Business
		Halifax Metro Chamber of Commerce
		Nova Knowledge
		Voluntary Planning
June 8, 2000	Meetings with Deputy Ministers	Finance
		Fisheries and Aquaculture
		Environment
		Justice
		Labour
		BCS
June 9, 2000	Meetings with Deputy Ministers	Tourism and Culture
		Economic Development
		Natural Resources
		Registrar of Regulations
		Housing and Municipal Affairs
		Agriculture and Marketing
June 27, 2000	Calla Farn	Canadian Soft Drink
	Michael MacDonald	Greater Hfx Partnership
	Judith Cabrita	Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS)
	Elizabeth Beale	Atlantic Provinces Economic Council
	Roy Salmon & Staff	Office of the Auditor General

(Appendix 1: Consultation Schedule)

Red Tape Reduction Consultation Meetings

Date	*Name*	*Association*
July	Notes (excerpts re Red Tape) from the Economic Development consultation meetings re Prosperity Initiative	regional & sectoral meetings held around the province in May & June
August 2, 2000	Jim Stevens	Investors Dealers
	Metro Chamber of Commerce	Small Business Committee
	Laurence Nason	Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
	Mr. Jim LeBlanc	Department of Labour, OH&S Division
	Carol MacCulloch	Co-Chair (Employer) OH&S Advisory Council Construction Association of Nova Scotia (CANS)
	Paul Petipas	Nova Scotia Home Builders' Association
August 16, 2000	Rick Clarke	Nova Scotia Federation of Labour
	Joan Jessome	Nova Scotia Government Employees Union (NSGEU)
	Betty Jean Sutherland	Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
	Luc Erjavec	Restaurant and Food Services Association
	Ken Simpson	Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities
	Ed Harris	Chair Voluntary Planning Taxation Sector committee

(Appendix 1: Consultation Schedule)

Red Tape Reduction Consultation Meetings

Date	*Name*	*Association*
August 30, 2000	Dr. Ross McCurdy	InNovaCorp
	Steve Graves Jim Henley Ken Chisholm	Mainland NS Building & Construction Trades Council
	Rustum Southwell	Black Business Initiative
September 5-21, 2000	15 Public meetings	90 attendees 8 media
May-October	Written Submissions	59 submissions 17 businesses 18 civil servants 10 municipalities/RDAs 7 associations 6 citizens/other 1 labour
November 7, 2000	TIANS AGM	small group session
November 8, 2000	Bruce Collins John McKee	Nova Scotia Construction Safety Association

(Appendix 1: Consultation Schedule)

Red Tape Reduction Consultation Meetings

Date	*Name*	*Association*
December 6, 2000	Robert Baird,	Association of Professional Engineers
	Dermot Mulrooney	
	David Haley	
	Skit Ferguson	Consulting Engineers of Nova Scotia
January 10, 2001	Peter Kinnear	Nova Scotia Power Inc
	Jack Leedham	Nova Scotia Building Officials Association (NSBOA)
	Ed Thornehill	Halifax Regional Municipality and a member of the NSBOA
February 7, 2001	Rick Clarke, NSFL	Nova Scotia Federation of Labour
	Rob Wells, Co-Chair OH&S Advisory Council	CUPE
February 12, 2001	George Burris	Registrar of Farms
	Robert Dares	Registry of Motor Vehicles (Farm vehicle licence plates)
	Frank Moore	Provincial Tax Commission
	Richard Shaffner	Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
March 20, 2001	Deputy Minister Brian Stonehouse	Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
	Greg Keefe	

(Appendix 1: Consultation Schedule)

Red Tape Reduction Consultation Meetings

Date	*Name*	*Association*
March 21, 2001	Betty Josey	Insurance Bureau of Canada
	Marlene Landry	
March 28, 2001	Mr. Tony Bebbington	Bebbington Industries
	Deputy Minister Kevin McNamara	Department of Environment and Labour
	Murrin Leim	
May 9, 2001	Steve Feindel	Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
May 14, 2001	Peter O'Brien	Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)
	Carol MacCulloch	Construction Association of Nova Scotia (CANS)
	Luc Erjavec	Restaurant and Food Services Association
June 13, 2001	Peter O'Brien	CFIB
	Carol MacCulloch	CANS

Appendix 2: Draft Criteria Check List

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL - ADVICE TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT: _____

DATE OF REQUEST: _____

PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED REQUEST.
Indicate whether it is a new regulation(s) or an amendment to existing regulation(s). Give the name of the Act.

_____
_____
_____
_____

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR DETAILED INFORMATION: _____
_____ TELEPHONE: _____

_____ _____ _____
SIGNATURE OF DEPUTY MINISTER SIGNATURE OF MINISTER DATE

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

BACKGROUND

A. Regulation(s) recommended by: _____
_____
Department and/or Other (Specify): _____
_____
Legislation Supported By (attach any relevant documentation): _____
_____
_____
_____

B. Has Regulation(s) been previously requested? NO ☐ YES ☐ (specify years) _____
_____
Why did the regulation(s) not go forward? _____
_____
_____

C. Will this regulation(s) and any subsequent regulations increase red tape in Nova Scotia? _____
_____
_____
_____

(Appendix 2: Draft Criteria Check List)

CHECK LIST	SUPPORTING DATA	
1. Is the proposed regulation absolutely necessary?		
What is the problem?		
What is being proposed / goal?		
Are there alternatives to the regulation, e.g. voluntary schemes, codes of practice, self regulation, procedures, improved information, etc?		
Is this a new problem, or a past continuing problem?		
How will we measure achievement of goal?		
2. Who is affected, and, in the recent past, have comprehensive consultations been undertaken with those affected and have realistic alternatives been explored?		
Give the general scope of who is affected by the regulations (winners and losers).		
Who was consulted and how?		
What were the positions expressed?		
Were all affected groups consulted? Who was not and why?		
3. Does the regulation enhance, is it neutral or is it an impediment to Nova Scotia's competitiveness?		
How do other jurisdictions deal with the problem?		
Are Nova Scotia's requirements and standards similar or stiffer than in other jurisdictions?		
Has the regulation been tested to see if stakeholders understand it and to ensure that it meets the Registry of Regulations' Style and Procedures Manual?		
What are cost impacts to those who have to comply?		
To what extent does it increase regulatory burden?		
Does the regulation create a competitive advantage or disadvantage for particular groups?		
Does this cost vary with location, e.g. urban or rural?		
Does this cost impact vary with size of operation?		

(Appendix 2: Draft Criteria Check List)

CHECK LIST	SUPPORTING DATA	
4. Do the benefits of the regulation outweigh the risks or consequences without the regulation?		
What are the benefits? Please quantify.		
What are the risks of not regulating?		
Does government have resources to enforce and are the regulation(s) enforceable?		
5. Can the regulation be administered efficiently with minimal procedures and paperwork?		
Is there overlap or duplication with other ministries, federal government or municipalities?		
Has the number of government agencies involved in regulating this area been minimized?		
Has consideration been given to exemption or simplified procedures for small business or rural areas?		
Is the legislation and the proposed regulation compatible with the government's proposed e-commerce system?		
6. Review and Follow-up		
If a predetermined date was established, by which the effectiveness and impact of the measure was to be reviewed, who is to be consulted on the review and how?		

Appendix 3: Regulations Flagged for Review

Regulation	Act	Prospects for Elimination or Simplification	Department
Fish Inspection Regulations	Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, SNS 1996, c. 25	Under agreement with Canadian Food Inspection Agency. New regulations are being proposed for the purposes of streamlining.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Regulations	Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, SNS 1996, c. 25	Exploring administrative efficiencies/effectiveness resulting from the merge of Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Rockweed Harvesting Regulations	Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, SNS 1996, c. 25	Review completed. New regulations were approved that replaced outdated Sea Plants Harvesting Regulations.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Fisheries Organizations Support Act Regulations	Fisheries Organizations Support Act, 1995-96, c. 6, s. 1	Simplifying requirements of members= voting procedures the outcome of which is a determination of whether license holders want an organization to represent their interests in the region.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Apple Maggot Control Regulations	Agriculture and Marketing Act, Part XIII	Producers want this inspection maintained or expanded. Consultation is under way for a simp[...] framework with the NS Fruit Growers' Association.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Beef & Veal Carcass Grading Regulations	Agriculture and Marketing Act	Review required to determine if duplication exists with the federal government regulations.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Community Pasture Regulations	Agriculture and Marketing Act	Recommend that a full consultation with stakeholders be undertaken to determine if the regulations should be eliminated.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Contagious Diseases Among Bees Regulations	Agriculture and Marketing Act	Provincial Apiarist position was eliminated in 2000/01 budget. NS Beekeepers Association strongly supports this regulation. Administration now through Manager of IPM and Regulations.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Dressed & Eviscerated Poultry Regulations	Agriculture and Marketing Act	Being reviewed in conjunction with Meat Inspection Regulations.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Grading, Packing, Marking, Inspection, Advertising, and Sale of Eggs Regulations, section 66	Agriculture and Marketing Act	Review required to determine if duplication exists with the federal government regulations.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Hatchery & Flock Approval Policy Regulations	Agriculture and Marketing Act	Canadian Food Inspection Agency regulations are being revised to cover hatchery standards and registration in Nova Scotia for all other aspects.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Hogs Carcass Grading Regulations	Agriculture and Marketing Act	Review required to determine if duplication/conflict exists with the federal government regulations.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Improvement of Livestock Breeding Regulations	Agriculture and Marketing Act	Consultation under way recommending regulations be eliminated. All disease issues could possibly be managed under federal regulations.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Lamb & Mutton Carcass Grading Regulations	Agriculture and Marketing Act	Review required to determine if duplication exists with the federal government regulations.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Packaged Apples Controlled	Agriculture and Marketing Act	The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association have been consulted and support the need for this regulation. Still under review.	Agriculture and Fisheries
San Jose Scale	Agriculture and Marketing Act	Regulation has not been used since the 1960s. Recommend elimination.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Wool Grading Regulations	Agriculture and Marketing Act	Regulation has not been used since the 1970s. Recommend elimination. Consultation with industry under way.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board	Agriculture and Rural Credit Act	Purse opportunities to improve loans procedures and turn-around for loans requiring OIC approval. Assist in the continued development of credit programs for the agricultural sector. Pursue administrative efficiencies resulting from merger of Agriculture and Fisheries.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Animal Health and Protection	Animal Health and Protection Act	Federal government tends to rely on the provinces to identify disease issues. ILT (a poultry disease) is one example. Province needs to evaluate position on ILT and exhibition poultry. Also some definitions need updating.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Bee Industry/Diseases and Pests Affecting Bees	Bee Industry Act	Provincial Apiarist position eliminated in 2000/01 budget. NS Beekeepers Association supports this regulation. Now administered by Manager of IPM and Regulation.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Cold Storage Plants Loans	Cold Storage Plants Loan Act	No longer used. Recommend repealing the Act and regulations.	Agriculture and Fisheries

(Appendix 3: Regulations Flagged for Review)

Regulation	Act	Prospects for Elimination or Simplification	Department
Operational Framework for delivery of Crop Insurance programs.	Crop Insurance Act	Combine regulation for all crop insurance plans into one document. A general section can outline the issues common to all insurance plans with accompanying sections describing particular conditions for individual plans. This format would simplify information given to clients and enable user friendly reference to regulations covering all insured crops.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Beef Cows/Calves Diseases Plan Regulations	Crop Insurance Act	Requires review to determine if revision necessary.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Insurance Form Regulations	Crop Insurance Act	Recommend eliminating requirement for forms to be approved by Governor in Council in all regulations. Requires Act amendment.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Dairy Regulations	Dairy Industry Act	New *Dairy Industry Act* replaced *Dairy Commission Act*. All regulations being rewritten.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Farm Registration Regulations	Farm Registration Act	Alternative service delivery methods and changes to the system for refunding of registration fees are topics of discussion with clients and the NS Federation of Agriculture. The regulation prescribing the registration and refund forms are under review to streamline their use by clients and provide for effective farm data collection by government.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Imitation Dairy Products	Imitation Dairy Products Act	A committee at the national level is working on a system that would eliminate the need for separate provincial legislation. The Provinces would be able to rely on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency regulations that monitor Canadian import requirements. If the federal government allows the product into Canada, it should then move freely inter-provincially. Consultation with industry required.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Livestock Health Services	Livestock Health Services Act	Program structure changed with new *Livestock Health Services Act*. Eliminated 22 boards. Regulations being reviewed.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Livestock Loans	Livestock Loans Guarantee Act	The Act establishing these regulations is outdated and inactive. This Act created problems by guaranteeing loans made by lending agencies and not repaid by the producer. Recommend repealing the Act and regulations.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Margarine	Margarine Act	Needs to be evaluated to determine if necessary. Federal labelling laws provide consumers free choice and informed decision making. Industry consultation required.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Meat Inspection	Meat Inspection Act	In process of having newly drafted regulations. The process will include stakeholder consultation.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Agriculture Commodity Marketing Plan & Regulations	Natural Products Act	Plans/Regulations are under review with a view to streamlining and making commodity boards more effective and market responsive. These include turkey, pork and egg. Review of regulations is typically initiated by the producer commodity boards.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Timber Loan Board	Timber Act	Consultations have occurred with Dept of Natural Resources and the Woodlot Owners' Association. Suggest re-writing regulations to allow lending to be determined by the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board regulations.	Agriculture and Fisheries Natural Resources
Food Shop (Municipal)	Health Act	One set of provincial regulations being drafted to replace the regulations that each municipality has. Process to review new draft regulations will include stakeholder consultation.	Agriculture and Fisheries Health
Purchase, Sale and Distribution of Grain	Nova Scotia Grain and Forage Commission Act	Repealed Act 2001. Activity privatized. Act and regulations - no longer required.	Agriculture and Fisheries *Repealed*
Rates for Drying, Storage, Grading and Handling Grain	Nova Scotia Grain and Forage Commission Act	Repealed Act 2001. Activity privatized. Act and regulations - no longer required.	Agriculture and Fisheries *Repealed*
Potato Industry	Potato Industry Act	Plant Pathologist position eliminated in 2000/01 budget. Regulation to protect potato industry from bacterial ring rot. Now administered by Manager of IPM and Regulation. Alternative deliver will be reviewed.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Weed Control	Weed Control Act	Regulations reviewed periodically to ensure noxious weed list relevant.	Agriculture and Fisheries
Deer Farming and Marketing of Deer Products Regulations	Wildlife Act	Consideration to merge Game Farming and Deer Farming Regulations to make one set of regulations.	Agriculture and Fisheries

(Appendix 3: Regulations Flagged for Review)

Regulation	Act	Prospects for Elimination or Simplification	Department
Activities Designation Regulations	Environment Act	Stakeholders expressed concern about the conflicts about which activities should be on the list; and suggest blanket approvals. Review under way	Environment & Labour
Approvals Procedure	Environment Act	Stakeholders indicate time lines to receive approval is too long; suggest need for blanket approvals and simpler procedures. Potential to streamline administration of regulations. Review under way	Environment & Labour
Environmental Assessment	Environment Act	Stakeholders expressed concern about the conflicts about which activities should be on the list; industry complains time line too long whereas public complains time line is too short. Review under way	Environment & Labour
Motive Fuel and Fuel Oil Approval	Environment Act	Overlapping administration with other departments.	Environment & Labour
On-site sewage disposal systems	Environment Act	Will continue initial high level of auditing in the second year due to a lower than projected number of applications and observations of some actual system selections and installations.	Environment & Labour
Elevators and Lifts Regulations	Elevators and Lifts Act	Client survey indicates a desire for maintained or increased levels of service on a fee for service basis. Change design approval review step to design registration only and make professional engineers accountable for design. Other legislative and regulatory changes and systems are required to implement this process.	Environment & Labour
Incline Chair Lifts	Elevators and Lifts Act	Need no longer exists. Recommend elimination.	Environment & Labour
The Nova Scotia Safety Standard for Elevating Devices for the Physically Disabled Regulations	Elevators and Lifts Act	Replace with CSA B355 Code and merge with Elevators and Lifts Regulations. Adopt CSA B355 and merge with Elevator & Lift Regulations.	Environment & Labour
Stationary Engineers Regulations	Stationary Engineers Act	Affected stakeholders have worked on a new Act and regulations to replace these with the new Power Engineers Act and Regulations and the Crane Operators Act and Regulations- part of national certification program and therefore cannot be eliminated. Currently merging the service delivery with the Boiler & Pressure Vessel Inspection process so that a single inspector will provide inspections under both this and the Steam Boiler & Pressure Vessel Act. The new regulations come into force September 1, 2001.	Environment & Labour
Steam Boiler and Pressure Vessel Regulations	Steam Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act	Working on a small portion for simplification for a national design registration system instead of the current province by province system.	Environment & Labour
Coal Mines Regulation	Coal Mines Regulation Act (CMRA)	1) If underground coal mining is to be permitted in the province, under its jurisdiction, regulations specific to the nature of the hazards in coal mining will be required. 2) An alternative would be to contract with the federal regulator to perform any provincial inspections and to adopt as provincial regulations the federal requirements. The approach would be costly based on how federal regulations are administered if a coal mine was actually developed. 3) A detailed section by section review has been conducted of the regulations in preparing a revised set of regulatory requirements. The intent here is to eliminate the CMRA and replace it with a current set of requirements to be known as the Under-ground Mining Regulations (UMR). This draft has been developed in consultation with a committee of employer and employee industry representatives. The regulations being developed are comprehensive and reflect current technologies and practices. The content and many of the administrative provisions that are identified in the regulations are a result of the Richard's Inquiry. There are opportunities within the regulation to streamline or reduce some requirements but these changes would not be in keeping with the Richard's Inquiry Report.	Environment & Labour
Fees for Certificates of Competency	Coal Mines Regulation Act	The regulation could be eliminated by offering the certification system on a no charge basis or by removing the certification requirements from the regulation. In the latter case this would then place a responsibility on the employer to be able to demonstrate competency. The current proposal is to transfer the certification system and associated regulations to the Apprenticeship and Job Training Branch at Education. This will centralize the trades certifications that the OH &S Division administers.	Environment & Labour

(Appendix 3: Regulations Flagged for Review)

Regulation	Act	Prospects for Elimination or Simplification	Department
Metalliferous Mines and Quarries Regulation Act	Metalliferous Mines and Quarries Regulation Act (MM&QRA)	1) If the province intends to permit underground mining in the province under its jurisdiction regulations specific to the nature of the hazards will be required. 2) An alternative would be to contract with the federal regulator to perform and provincial inspections but regulations would be required as there is no federal equivalent. 3) A detailed section by section review has been conducted of the regulations in preparing a revised set of regulatory requirements. The intent here is to eliminated the MM&QRA and replace it with a current set of requirements to be known as the UMR. This draft has been developed in consultation with a committee of employer and employee industry. The quarry regulations have been included in the Occupational Safety General Regulations (OSGR). The regulations being developed and those already put in place are comprehensive and reflect current technologies and practices. Completing the regulation development process will improve the application of the regulations.	Environment & Labour
Rule 256 (Height and Face)	Metalliferous Mines and Quarries Regulation Act	Updated requirements introduced in the Occupational Safety General Regulations (OSGR).	Environment & Labour
Rule 279 (Protection from Moving Parts)	Metalliferous Mines and Quarries Regulation Act	Updated requirements introduced in the OSGR	Environment & Labour
Use of Electricity in Mines	Metalliferous Mines and Quarries Regulation Act	Updated requirements introduced in the OSGR and the Underground Mining Regulations (UMR).	Environment & Labour
Electrical Code Regulations	Electrical Installation and Inspection Act	Stakeholders have expressed concern about Licences for contractors and inspections.	Environment & Labour
Automatic Sprinkler System Maintenance Regulations Class 1 Flammable Liquid Portable Containers Regulations Egress From Building Regulations Fire Prevention Advisory Council Regulations Portable Fire Extinguisher Control Regulations	Fire Prevention	Act and regulations have been reviewed through a broad based process over the last three years. New Act has been introduced into the House. A Select Committee of the Legislature has been established to gather further input on the Bill from municipalities and the fire service. Public hearings will be held over the summer.	Environment & Labour
Standardization of Equipment and Methods of Installation Regulations	Lightning Rod Act	To be replaced with a regulation for the standard for installation.	Environment & Labour
Standard Hose Coupling Act	Standard Hose Coupling Act	To be replace with a simplified regulation.	Environment & Labour
Fees and Allowances for Registrar of Deeds, Sheriffs and Courts Fees to be taken by a Commissioner of the Supreme Court Fees to be taken at the Department of the Attorney General Fees to be taken at the Department of Natural Resources	Costs and Fees Act	Amendments have been made to the Costs and Fees Regulations and care was taken to simplify them.	Justice
Private Investigators and Private Guards Regulations	Private Investigators and Private Guards Act	Suggest review and consultations with Stakeholders.	Justice
Form or Forms of Advertisement	Probate Act	The Probate Act was substantially amended in the Spring Session. This will result in new regulations under the Act but again efforts are being made to simplify and streamline these where possible.	Justice
Chapter 9, Section 64, RSNS 1989, Revised Statutes of 1989	Co-operative Associations Act	The Act is currently under review. Legislation governing co-operatives in Nova Scotia dates back to 1977. In addition to updating the language of the Act and attending to several housekeeping items, the new act will deal with a series of emerging and new issues that had not been contemplated in the 1977 legislation. It will also seek to streamline and simplify the government procedures for starting, overseeing and winding up co-operatives.	Economic Development

(Appendix 3: Regulations Flagged for Review)

Regulation	*Act*	*Prospects for Elimination or Simplification*	*Department*
3 to 48, 72, 73	Mineral Resources Act	A number of possible amendments have been identified	Natural Resources
57 to 61- Mining Lease	Mineral Resources Act	Mining Lease will be redefined as a "Mineral Lease" and information requirements strengthened with some elements of the current mining permit (see below) in amendments to the MRA, passed 1999 (Bill 12) but not yet proclaimed. Awaiting completion of the Underground Mining Regulations by Environment and Labour.	Natural Resources
62 to 68 Mining/Milling Permits	Mineral Resources Act	Mining and Milling Permits will be eliminated under amendments to the MRA, passed 1999 (Bill 12) but not yet proclaimed.	Natural Resources
No regulations	Treasure Trove Act	Treasure Trove Act could be transferred to Dept of Tourism and Culture, so that all provisions related to treasure are coordinated in the same dept.	Natural Resources
Regulations under the Trails Act	Trails Act	There has only ever been one designation under the Trails Act; it is now defunct and the current regulations are no longer relevant. Additionally, the existing designation process is cumbersome and time consuming. The Department of Natural Resources is working with the Sport and Recreation Commission on a new Act to allow provincial groups to register their trail and immediately gain limited liability and other advantages they find attractive. Legislation is expected to be brought forward in the Spring of 2002.	Natural Resources
Regulations under the Provincial Parks Act.	Provincial Parks Act	Natural Resources is in the initial stages of reviewing the Provincial Parks Act. Once desirable changes have been identified, recommended revisions to the legislation and regulations will be put forward.	Natural Resources
Regulations: Christmas Tree Levy, Christmas Tree Grading, Timber Loan Board and Forest Fire Protection.	The Forest Act	Discussions are continuing with industry and others affected on the forestry related issues raised during the Red Tape consultations.	Natural Resources
Shopping Centre Application Regulations	The Shopping Center Development Act	The need for this Act is open to question as many municipalities have their own planning policies. SNSMR is currently consulting with municipalities through the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities on the need to retail this Act. The UNSM is expected to discuss the possible repeal of the Act at its annual conference in October.	Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
Minimum requirement pertaining to the health, life safety, fire safety, structural sufficiency, and barrier free access for all buildings constructed in Nova Scotia.	The Building Code Act	Inconsistencies in sprinkler requirements contained in the Nova Scotia regulations and the National Building Code can create difficulties for businesses. SNSMR has commissioned a consultant to review the Nova Scotia and National Building Code sprinkler requirements and to advise on the best course to action to mesh the requirements while maintaining life safety in buildings..	Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
Collection Agencies Regulations	Collection Agencies Act	All provinces are currently working together to develop a harmonized list of prohibited collection agency practices.	Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
1) Cemetery and Funeral Services Act Regulations 2) Operators of Crematoria Regulations	Cemetery and Funeral Services Act	A review of the Act and Regulations is currently under way.	Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
Embalmers and Funeral Directors Regulations	Embalmers and Funeral Directors Act	A review of the Act and Regulations is currently under way.	Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
Consumer Protection Act Regulations	Consumer Protection	Amendments have been passed, but not proclaimed, to make the cost of credit disclosure provisions required of lenders consistent with those that will be in place in all other Canadian jurisdictions. The Regulations associated with cost of credit disclosure now need to be amended as well.	Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
Mortgage Brokers' and Lenders' Registration Act	Mortgage Brokers' and Lenders' Registration Act	Amendments have been passed, but not proclaimed, to make the cost of credit disclosure provisions required of lenders consistent with those that will be in place in all other Canadian jurisdictions. The Regulations associated with cost of credit disclosure now need to be amended as well.	Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
Residential Tenancies Regulations	Residential Tenancies Act	A review of the Act and Regulations is currently under way	Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations

(Appendix 3: Regulations Flagged for Review)

Regulation	Act	Prospects for Elimination or Simplification	Department
Motor Vehicle Inspection Regulations	Motor Vehicle Act	A review of the regulations covering the motor vehicle inspection program is currently under way.	Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations
1) Companies Act Regulations 2) Table A Regulations for Management of a Company Limited by Shares	Companies Act	There may be opportunities for improvements in this legislation. It would require a review of the Act and Regulations, which should include seeking input from the legal community.	Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations
Province of New Brunswick Exemption Designation	Corporations Registration Act	It may be possible to investigate opportunities to coordinate registration procedures with companies branches in other provinces and the federal government.	Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations
1) Partnership and Business Names Registration Act Regulations 2)Province of Nova Scotia Exemption Designation	Partnership and Business Names Registration Act	A review of Nova Scotia's names policy, comparing it with the policies in other jurisdictions, could be undertaken.	Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations
	Bell Museum Act	The Bell Museum Act can be repealed, now that the facility has been transferred to the federal Crown and the Province has no further involvement.	Transportation and Public Works
Parking Meter Regulations - Town of Digby, Town of Lunenburg, Town of Truro	Motor Vehicle Act	In Year 1, the regulations should be reviewed with respect to possible removal. The province no longer has designated Amain travelled@ and Athrough@ highways within towns; therefore, there may not be the continued need for provincial/municipal co-approval of such regulations.	Transportation and Public Works
Parking Regulations for the Town of Shelburne	Motor Vehicle Act	In Year 1, the regulations should be reviewed with respect to possible removal. The province no longer has designated Amain travelled@ and Athrough@ highways within towns; therefore, there may not be the continued need for provincial/municipal co-approval of such regulations.	Transportation and Public Works
Economic regulations	Motor Carrier Act	Consultations are planned.	Transportation and Public Works
Safety Regulations	Motor Carrier Act	New Safety Regulations for commercial vans are in the process of being drafted, and will be forwarded to Executive Council for approval.	Transportation and Public Works